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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/530,130	04/04/2005	Eric Verschueren	234857	2893

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LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD
TWO PRUDENTIAL PLAZA, SUITE 4900
180 NORTH STETSON AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60601-6780

EXAMINER

GILLIAM, BARBARA LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1752

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/530,130

Applicant(s)

VERSCHUEREN, ERIC

Examiner

Barbara L. Gilliam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/04/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Preliminary Amendment

1. The preliminary amendment filed April 4, 2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-40 are pending.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Double Patenting

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claims 1-40 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of copending

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Application No. 10/530,394 (US 2006/0000377 A1). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the presently claimed method of making a heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor is obvious in view of the claims of Verschueren. Specifically Verschueren claims a method of making a heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor wherein a web of a lithographic support is coated with a phenolic resin composition, the coating is dried, the web is heated in a heating step wherein the web temperature is maintained above 150°C during a period of between 0.1 and 60 seconds and a subsequently the web is cooled wherein the average cooling rate is at least 0.5°C/s.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Huang et al. (EP 1 074 386 A2).

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a. The positive working polymeric resin coatings of Huang et al. are coated onto a substrate such as in a printing plate and the coated element is given a heat treatment comprising a controlled slow cooling from an elevated temperature (abstract). According to Huang et al., controlled slow cooling means cooling under conditions such that heat is lost from the precursor more slowly than if it is cooled from the elevated temperature under ambient conditions ([0018]). When the composition comprises a phenolic resin, the elevated temperature is 90°C or above, preferably 110°C or above but is not so high as to cause irreversible modification of the composition, preferably does not exceed 150°C (preferably does not exceed 125°C) ([0022]). The glass transition temperature, T_g, of compositions containing novolak resins is about 90-110°C ([0029]; [0031]). The cooling period is at least one hour, most preferably at least 6 hours and suitably the cooking rate is not greater than 1°C/min, most preferably not great than 0.2°C/min ([0033]-[0034]). Huang et al. also teach an intermittent drying step ([0041]).

8. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aburano et al. (US 6,723,489 B2).

a. Aburano et al. teach a heat treatment of lithographic printing form precursors in web form comprising positive working polymeric coating on substrates. This heat treatment involves a relatively short heating stage followed by accelerated cooling (abstract). The precursor is preferably cooled to a temperature of 30°C or less in less than 1 hour (col. 4, lines 7-30). It is preferred that the precursor or precursors be subjected to a temperature not in excess of 110°C, most preferably not in excess of 80°C

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and in general not in excess of the glass transition temperature of the polymeric coating (col. 5, lines 9-46). In favorable situations, the precursor in web form is heat treated for not more than 8 hours and flash heating over a period of less than 2 minutes are taught (col. 5, lines 21-61). In Example 1, precursors comprising novolak resins were heating for 21 second to temperatures varying between 90 and 110°C and were cooled to a temperature of 30°C or less in 10 minutes. In Examples 2, the precursors were heated to a temperature of 150°C for 68, 38 and 21 seconds and cooled to a temperature of 30°C or less in 10 minutes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 25-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (EP 1 074 386 A2).

a. As discussed in the rejection under 35 USC 102(b), Huang et al. teach heating and controlled slow cooling of a positive working printing plate comprising a phenolic resin (abstract). When the composition comprises a phenolic resin, the elevated temperature is 90°C or above, preferably 110°C or above but is not so high as to cause irreversible modification of the composition, preferably does not exceed 150°C (preferably does not exceed 125°C) ([0022]). The glass transition temperature, T_g, of

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compositions containing novolak resins is about 90-110°C ([0029]; [0031]. Huang et al. specifically teach that an extended hold period is not needed when the precursors are heated to an elevated temperature exceeding the T_g of the composition ([0022]), however Huang et al. do not specifically the required period 0.1 to 60 seconds. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, through routine experimentation, to hold the precursors at an elevated temperature, exceeding the composition T_g, for a time period sufficient to obtain precursors with high developer resistance in the unexposed areas ([0015]).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. In EP 1 074 889 A1, Lott et al. teach thermal treatment of imageable coatings.

b. In US 2002/0098288 A1, Kamitani teach a method of manufacturing a lithographic printing plate in which conditions for heating a support and a photosensitive layer in a drying and heating step is taught.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara L. Gilliam whose telephone number is 571-272-1330. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

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a. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia H. Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

b. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Barbara L. Gilliam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

bg
March 10, 2006